

DESIGN ENHANCEMENTS

Volume III, Fall Issue: September - November 2001

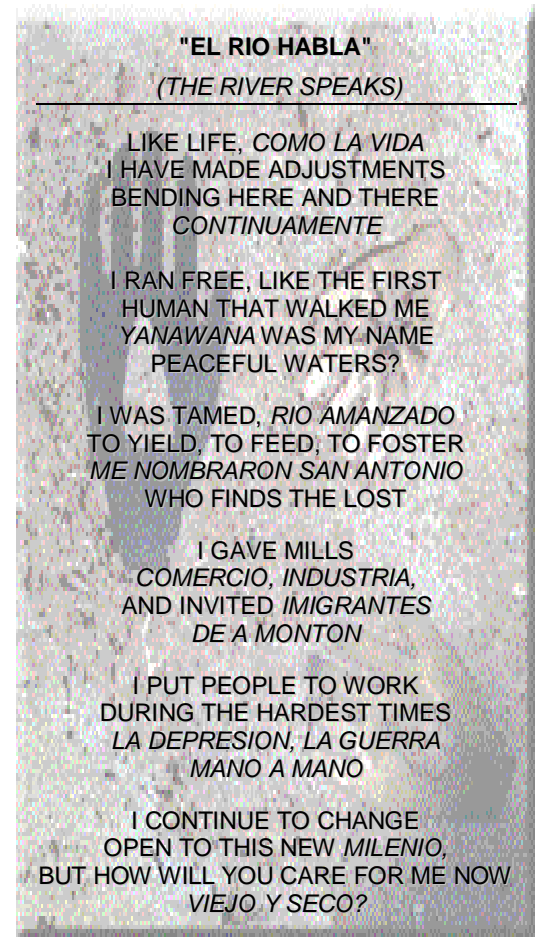
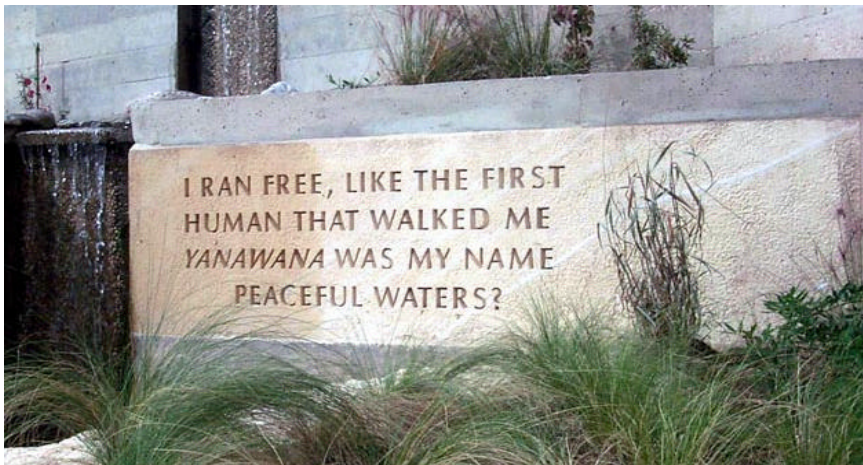
A Quarterly Newsletter by the Public Art & Design Enhancement Program
Public Works, City Architect's Office • P.O. Box 839966 • S.A., TX 78283-3966

PUBLIC WORKS: "BUILDING UP DOWNTOWN"

Downtown San Antonio is built upon well-known historical foundations and over time has uniquely adapted modern design approaches for its capital improvements. Downtown infrastructure performs on many levels, serving as the city's entertainment center, government headquarters, tourist haven, financial district, historical origin, and cultural heart. Improving the functionality of downtown is the goal of several capital projects managed by the Public Works Department. And, upon the projects' completion, the public will benefit from the well-integrated design enhancement policy that is adding to the *historic, innovative, and unique* character that defines San Antonio's downtown.

Historic - The Historic Civic Center River Link Project converts the southeastern corner of the Dolorosa and Commerce Street intersection into a park that opens up the river to street level. The park was inaugurated on September 30th, after years of planning and public hearings in support of making downtown's westside more accessible to the Riverwalk. The park's quarry character was designed by Lake-Flato Architects and constructed by Winters Construction. Texas artist, Celia Alvarez Muñoz was selected as a collaborator with the design team to help influence the park's overall design and to create unique art treatments that would reveal the cultural, historical and environmental

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Above: "El Rio Habla" (*The River Speaks*), Celia A. Muñoz.

Left: Historic Civic Center River Link Project - Landing No. 2, Celia A. Muñoz.

1 Project Update

Public Works: Building
Up Downtown - *Historic
Civic Center River Link*

2 Project Update

Public Works, Cont. -
*Presa River Link Project,
St. Mary's Parking Garage*

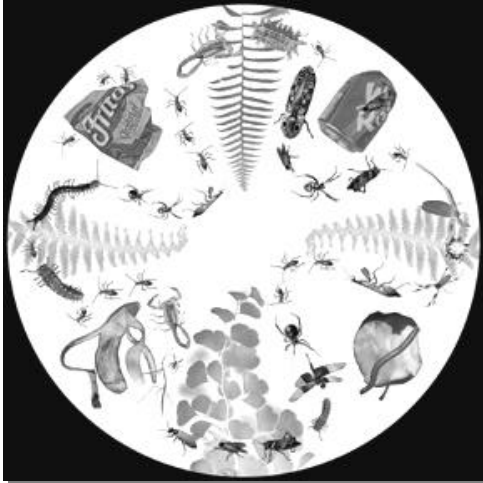
3 Project News

Aviation Department:
Terminal Renovation -
César Martínez

4 Resources

Calendar of Events
Project Update: One
Stop Center - *Angel
Rodriguez-Diaz*

Project Update: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Left: Presa St. River Link Project's insert design (No. 4 of 8 pc. series)
Artist: Cathy Cunningham

Right: St. Mary's Street Parking Garage's Pre-cast Terrazzo shoe.
Artist: Gary Sweeney

attributes of the San Antonio River and the City. As a result, "El Rio Habla" (*The River Speaks*), a poem written by Muñoz, was carved, stanza by stanza, into six limestone tablets and mortared into wall-recesses at six pedestrian landings. The landings serve as resting-places along the meandering pathway that guide pedestrians to and from the river. The landings also contain embedded objects that were found and collected by Ms. Muñoz. The hand placed items were carefully selected by the artist to reflect and complement the wall texts, and reference San Antonio's past, present and future.

Innovative - The second downtown project to feature a river-to-street pedestrian connector is the Presa Street River Link Project, designed by Beaty & Partners, Architects; and being constructed by Guido Brothers Construction. A grand opening ceremony is being planned for mid-February 2002. Construction is in the last major stage, and areas soon to be completed include ADA ramp and stairwell improvements, Riverwalk beautification, and a water-feature. Once completed, visitors will marvel at the project's innovative design and visual appeal. Local lighting artist, Cathy Cunningham has created an equally inspiring art treatment that consists of eight illuminated glass sidewalk medallions. The specially engineered inserts are 31" in diameter industrial glass laminates and are etched with designs ranging from native wildlife to contemporary downtown imagery. The glass medallions are illuminated underneath by concealed neon light-wells which glow in cool to warm colors along the Riverwalk to Houston St. pathway.

Unique - A few blocks north, between Travis and Pecan Street, is the site of the St. Mary's Street Downtown Parking Garage Project. Plans are underway for a mid-January ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the six-level parking project, designed by Alamo Architects and being constructed by Affirmed General, Inc. The unique structure has a contemporary exterior that attractively conceals its impressive size, and the interior accommodates 700 cars with parking locations accessible to the recently renovated Houston Street. Throughout the parking facility, patrons will encounter a floor treatment designed by local artist Gary Sweeney. Sweeney's design enhancement is integrated into the ground level lobby terrazzo floor and is adjacent to each level's elevator, both North and South. The terrazzo design is intended to lead users outside of the garage through humorous text and over-sized shoe images, such as ladies high-heels, cowboy boots, and sneakers. The shoe designs have also been incorporated into each floor's elevator signage to help visitors recall their parking floor by identifying the style of shoe used on their floor. The whimsical artwork continues outside the structure where the shoes wander down the street and commingle with the daily pedestrian activity of downtown San Antonio.

As these projects begin opening to the public, customers and visitors alike will appreciate that Public Works is committed to providing high quality capital projects with design excellence and customer service. And moreover, that our city's legacy of artist and artisan involvement in civic projects is being upheld by Public Works and will continue as we ensure the vibrancy of downtown San Antonio. **JL**



ARTISTIC ARRIVALS AT SAIA TERMINAL

The City of San Antonio's Aviation Department is engaged in a 26.8 million-dollar Terminal Renovation and Retail Concession Development Project that will add 10,000 square feet to its current concession program. The improvements at San Antonio International Airport terminals endeavor to "reflect the goal of creating a unique airport experience that celebrates San Antonio's energy, cultural diversity and architectural styles". The Public Art and Design Enhancement Program has worked closely with the Aviation Department to integrate public art into the renovations at SAIA, and to reflect artistic and cultural themes that uniquely

identify San Antonio and the South Texas region.

One of the selected artists, César Martínez, a celebrated painter from San Antonio, has designed permanent portal displays for Terminal One's renovation. Along the concourse, ten gate-area portals feature Martínez's wall, floor and column designs fabricated in terrazzo-tile and mixed mediums. Each portal represents a unique theme developed through the artist's collaboration with the Renovation Project's architectural team of Davis, Durand-Hollis and Rupe and Marmon Mok. The portal themes celebrate San Antonio's unique cultural signifiers, such as Fiesta, Coahuilteco, Market Square, Conjunto, Jones Bridge, Presa Street Bridge, Japanese Tea Gardens, Fiesta Dance, Charreada, and Southside Missions. César has coordinated his portal designs with Los Angeles based artist, May Sun, who is creating a unique terrazzo floor for the concourse and food court. Ms. Sun's artistic design interprets the natural beauty of the San Antonio River, its reflections, shadows, fish and flora. Grand opening of the new public art at SAIA will be announced in DE newsletters. **JL**

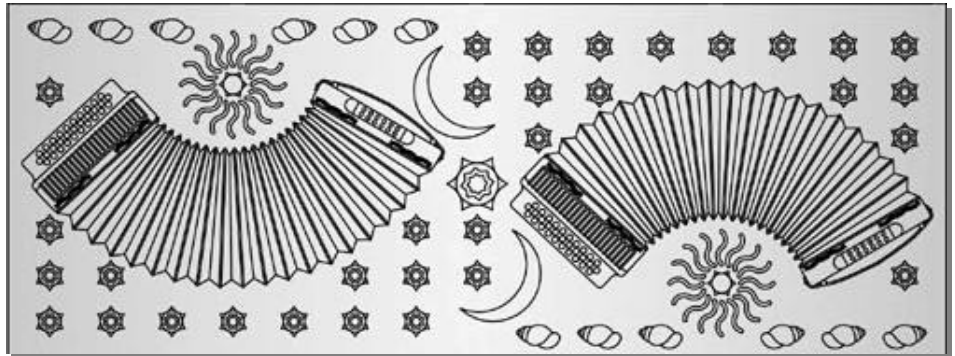
PROJECT FACTS

Project: Design Enhancements
at SAIA Terminal Renovations

Location: Council District 9

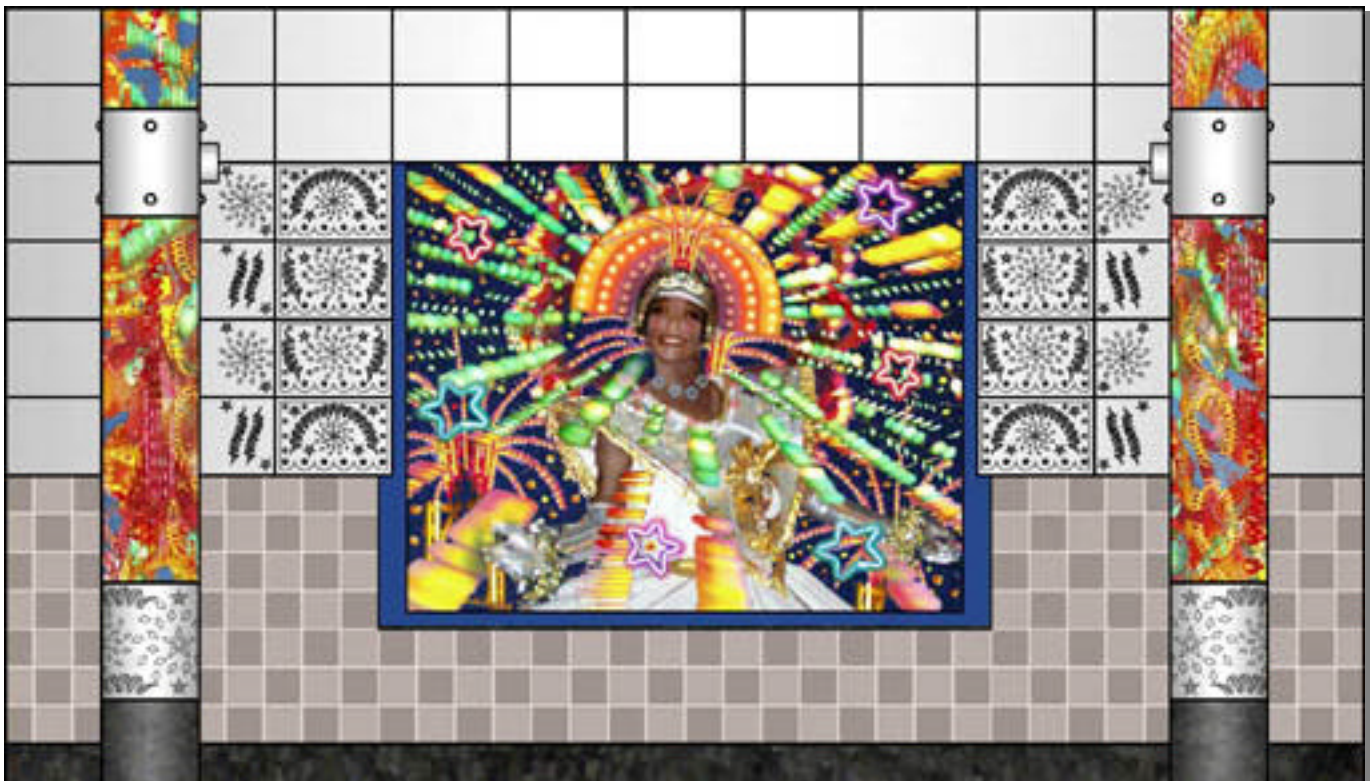
Scope of Work: Gate-Area Portals
by César Martínez; Concourse
Terrazzo Floor by May Sun.

Status: Design Phase B



Above: *Conjunto* theme
portal column design
(flattened). César Martínez

Below: *Fiesta* theme portal
wall and column design (floor
not shown). César Martínez





Robert Maxham
San Jose, 2001

"xuâi s k'âtz âu x t'âm " *
photographic myths
from the south texas
missions

* "Mission-Dream". In Coahuiltecan

Sept. 27 - Dec. 14, 2001
City of San Antonio
International Center
203 South Saint Mary's St.
San Antonio, Texas 78205

*Presented by Mexico-North
Research Network*

In coordination with SAFOTO 2001

City of San Antonio
Department of Public Works
Public Art and Design Enhancement Program
Design Enhancements
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, Texas 78283-3966

Project Update **ARTIST GETS GREEN LIGHT FOR ONE STOP PROJECT**

The One Stop Development Service Center Ad-Hoc Artist Selection Panel has selected San Antonio-based artist, Angel Rodriguez-Diaz for design services.

The project's joint-venture architect team of Rehler, Vaughn & Koone, Inc and Andrew Perez Associates are currently working with Mr. Rodriguez-Diaz to explore various design approaches, enhancement integration, and artistic treatment possibilities for the One Stop.

Angel Rodriguez-Diaz is an internationally recognized artist, known for his contemporary portrait paintings, and mixed media installations, which are infused personal and cultural themes.

More project information to come in upcoming Design Enhancement Newsletters.

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City Architect:

Tim Palomera

*Public Art & Design Enhancement
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Felix Padrón, Coordinator

James LeFlore, Program Mgr.

Design Enhancements is published by the Department of Public Works, Public Art and Design Enhancement Program, and is distributed to all professionals in the field of design, and community and civic groups to foster collaboration and design enhancements for public spaces that promotes economic development and neighborhood revitalization in San Antonio. To Reach Us: Send questions, comments or ideas to James LeFlore, **Design Enhancements**, Public Works City Architect's Office, P.O. Box 839966, San Antonio Texas 78283-3966. Call (210)-207-2277. Fax (210)-207-4418 or email to jlflore@sanantonio.gov, or go online at www.sanantonio.gov/pubwrks/pubart.